

## **PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

### **Application for Recovery Act: Edward Bryne Memorial Assistance Grant (JAG)**

#### **GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO**

In a county of 3,239 sq miles with a growing general population of 14,166 spread throughout, it has become important to hire another patrol deputy to meet demands of the community. It is also has become important to upgrade outdated equipment to sufficiently provide the required services needed to support such a demographic area. As a result, a new patrol deputy position with the Sheriff's Office has been created and filled. This new position fulfills a dual role of Patrol Deputy as well as County Animal Control Officer. With new deputies, comes the need to purchase the equipment that such officers will need to perform basic duties in an effective manner.

Current deputies work with outdated equipment that becomes harder and harder to work with as newer technology replaces the outdated. Maintenance and upkeep becomes near impossible with the only solution being the purchase of newer equipment. With today's economic environment, it has become even harder to obtain the resources that our county's law enforcement personnel require to effectively prevent and control crime.

Equipment plays a key role in any law enforcement environment and ultimately helps personnel to efficiently prevent and control crime. If awarded, the Edward Bryne Memorial Assistance Grant will provide the assistance to acquire much needed equipment that the county's law enforcement will use to work more effectively and consistently from one officer to the next.

Currently Gunnison County Sheriff's Office has acquired new patrol vehicles. One vehicle is for the recently added patrol deputy position and one to provide to an officer that has just recently returned from military services in Iraq. Each patrol vehicle is expected to be equipped with an in-car video system to improve evidence collection. As such, the county seeks to purchase two Martel MDE2 digital video systems with updated software.

Furthermore, the Edward Bryne Memorial Assistance Grant would permit the purchase of eight Pocket Cams equipped with video and audio capabilities These cameras

will be provided to those in the department to wear while conducting on scene investigations and as a result, meet today's universal investigative technology demands.

The Gunnison Police Department is cooperation with the Gunnison County Sheriff's Department in requesting Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Funding through the Formula Program for Local Solicitation.

The Gunnison Police Department will serve as the requesting agencies and provide grant tracking and reporting through the City of Gunnison budgeting process. Each agency will be responsible for selection and purchasing of equipment identified in the grant for use by their agency. Purchasing will be by respective government policy and guidelines. All expenses to be paid by the grant will be processed through the City of Gunnison, Finance Department.

Equipment purchases will be made during the third and fourth quarters of 2009 with final implementation and reporting completed first quarter of 2010.

### **Budget and Budget Narrative**

The Gunnison County Sheriff's Department is requesting funding as follows:

Grant funds will be expended to purchase the following equipment items: 2 Digital Martel MDE-2 police in-car video systems with a quoted price per video system of \$2,995.00 each; 8 Pocket Cams with video/audio capabilities and digital remotes at a quoted price per set \$295.00 each. Review Narrative Abstract.

The Gunnison Police department is requesting funding for equipment in the following areas; Tasers, Satellite communications service, and personal digital and video recorders.

The Gunnison Police Department consists of 15 sworn officers and 2 civilian code enforcement officers. Three Tasers were purchased in 2007 and made available to officers on duty. Funding was not available in 2008 to request additional units. Funding was originally received for the 2009 budget year, but was removed as part of a City wide reduction in expenses due to revenue shortfalls. The department is proposing the purchase of four Tasers at an estimated cost of \$3300.00. This will provide enough

Tasers that all sworn and civilian officers on duty would be equipped with a Taser. Expenditure would be anticipated during the third quarter of 2009.

The police department operates the Gunnison/Hinsdale County Regional Communications Center. The center provides 24 hour 911 service to all residents in Gunnison and Hinsdale County and provides emergency communications for two Sheriff's departments, 3 Municipal law enforcement agencies, 6 fire departments, 3 ambulance service, 1 state college security department as well as being available for US Park Service, US Forest Service, and BLM Officers in the county. As part of the communications center a mobile communications/command vehicle was purchased in 2005, with Homeland Security Funding. The vehicle is available to agencies in Gunnison and Hinsdale County. Plans are under way to make it available to other emergency services departments in the Western Colorado Region; encompassing Montrose County, Delta County, and part of Saguache County .

Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties are located in mountainous areas and comprise of approximately 80 percent Federal Land. Emergency radio communications is by use of 800 MHZ and VHF frequencies which have limited coverage in some areas of the two counties. The other surrounding counties also experience similar coverage issues with traditional radios. Cellular phone service is less reliable than emergency radio communications. The mobile communications vehicle is equipped with emergency radios, cell phone, outdated satellite phone equipment and satellite computer services but is limited in some remote areas due to equipment limitations. The department is proposing the installation of upgraded satellite service in the mobile vehicle capable of linking in telephone and radio patching. The expenditure being proposed would be for equipment and installation at an estimated cost of \$2000.00. Ongoing repair and service fees would be at department expense. Expenditure would be anticipated during the third quarter of 2009.

The police department is also proposing the expenditure of \$2153.00 for the purchase of personal digital voice and video recorders with external microphones to be used by officers during their investigations. The digital records made available to officers on duty would allow for the recording of investigative calls when needed. Additionally, the recorders would be available for officers when taking statements from victims and suspects. Gunnison is also experiencing an increase in non-English speaking residents. We have established a working group of interpreters, volunteer and paid, but still experience a dilemma in being able to verify what was interpreted. The recorders would be available to record both sides of an interview for court testimony, clarification and verifications when needed.

Funding for the equipment identified for purchase by the police department does not exist in the 2009 budget. The department budget, for 2009, was developed along with the City of Gunnison budget anticipating an economic down turn. The operations budget for the department was approved at 1% over the 2008 budget. At the midpoint of the 2009 budget cycle the City has experienced a continued decline in revenues. The police department operating budget was reduced by 4% and capital expenditures for the

department, not already expensed, were removed. Further budget cuts are anticipated by year end.

### **Review Narrative**

The Gunnison City Council was made aware of the Police Department intent to apply for this grant at a public work session held June 16, 2009. The final grant application will be presented for City Council review at a work session scheduled for June 30, 2009.

The Board of Gunnison County Commissioners will be provided a copy of the grant for their review on July 7, 2009

Both meetings will be open to the public. The grant application will also be posted on the City of Gunnison web site, beginning June 22, 2009, with public input being taken by the Police Department by e-mail and or phone contact with Keith Robinson, Chief of Police.

Application is being submitted prior to the 30 day review period. Should funding be approved no expenditures are planned or will be made prior to August 1, 2009. This will provide for Gunnison City Council and Gunnison County Board of Commissioners review and public comment.

### **Abstract**

Application is being made cooperatively between the Gunnison County Sheriff's Department and the Gunnison Police Department.

GOAL: With limited financial resources available, to both agencies, the equipment purchased will allow us to provide needed service in our communities without reducing funding available in other areas of our departmental budgets.

Grant will be administered by: Gunnison Police Department  
Chief Keith Robinson  
970-641-8250

Additional Contact: Gunnison County Sheriff's department  
Sheriff Richard Murdie  
970-641-1113